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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

83-0653/6

12 APR 1983

Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 25 March 1983 addressing domestic relocation allowances. I appreciate your interest in the problem of domestic relocation and assure you that the Agency will offer whatever assistance you and your staff may require in attempting to resolve this difficult issue.

You expressed some disappointment in your letter that our earlier response did not reflect a Community-wide approach, and asked that we take no further action until the Committee had an opportunity to fully review the matter. We certainly share your concern as to the need to seek Community-wide solutions to commonly-shared problems, where feasible, and have proposed such solutions each year in the annual Intelligence Authorization Bill, as well as on numerous other occasions.


However, as you can well appreciate, and as we noted when we presented our case prior to being granted expanded Agency travel and allowance authorities under Section 4 of the CIA Act, there are circumstances and inequities which require prompt resolution through exercise of authorities under Section 4 of the CIA Act. We are in contact with other Community members who are having problems analogous to those encountered by CIA employees. The costs associated with transfers, particularly the selling and purchasing of housing and, in some cases, the acquisition of rental quarters have been causing severe financial hardships to everyone relocating in the United States in recent years. While financial hardships may be experienced by all federal employees making domestic moves, the problem is most acute for CIA, NSA and FBI where employees in certain career fields are required to relocate every two to five years. There are distinct differences between our domestic reassignments and those of most other federal agencies. Domestic reassignments in other agencies are negotiated, are usually desired by the employees, and generally result in promotion and permanent change of duty station. For those affected CIA employees, the domestic reassignment serves the needs of the Agency, is part of a career path, does not necessarily result in promotion and is a temporary change in station for only two to five years.

While we would like to resolve such problems on a Community-wide basis, it does not appear feasible in this case without undue delay. Instead, we suggest the following course of action. First, but after further consultation with our Oversight and Appropriations Committees, the Agency would exercise its own Section 4 authorities to remedy this domestic relocation problem for CIA employees. This would enable NSA to use its own legislative authorities to follow the Agency and provide comparable benefits to the categories of their employees who face similar problems. We understand the FBI, whose problem appears to be most analogous to ours, is seeking relief through the legislative route and we are prepared to assist them in every way possible. If these proposed solutions cannot be worked out, we can assure you that the Agency would be willing to draft legislation which would grant the DCI authority to remedy problems shared by other similarly situated Intelligence Community members.

Mr. Chairman, we are in agreement that Community problems need to be examined and we are, as always, appreciative of your help in this regard.

If I may be of further assistance to you or your staff, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of the Executive Director.

Executive Director

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